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# Best place to strike back at terrorists

By JACK ANDERSON

**INTERNAL** White House documents emphasize President Reagan's attitude toward any further tweaking of Uncle Sam's beard by Moslem terrorists. He's sick of being pushed around.

Reagan believes the American people "are tired of suffering insults at the hands of other nations," as one policy paper put it. For this reason, the President is convinced that "minimal risks" can be taken to bolster U.S. leadership in the world.

The list of target options that could both assuage the public's outrage and deal the terrorists a damaging blow includes the obvious ones like Libya, Syria and Iran. But there's an even more tempting target: the ancient city of Baalbek in northeastern Lebanon.

If ever there were a viper's nest ripe for destruction, it is this terrorist plotting-and-training center in the Bekaa Valley, close to the Syrian border. Since 1975, the Bekaa has been the headquarters and nerve center for the greatest concentration of terrorists in the world today.

Protected by Syrian troops, who screen every outsider venturing into the area, the Bekaa Valley is only about an hour's drive from either Damascus or Beirut. It is an ideally situated launching pad for terrorist operations anywhere in the world.

Among the groups that use the valley's facilities, which are defended by mobile batteries of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles, are terrorists linked to the notorious Ilyich Ramirez Sanchez (Carlos the Jackal) and radical Palestinians Abu Musa and Abu Nidal.

Of all the terrorist gangs in the Bekaa, the most numer-

ous and blatant are the groups supported by Iran, loosely lumped under the cover name of Islamic Jihad.

The most vicious of these fanatics are the Shiite Hezbollah and the Islamic Amal, both based in Baalbek.

At one time or another, almost every American hostage held in Lebanon, aside from last June's TWA hijacking victims, have been kept at some location in the Bekaa Valley. It was here, for example, that CIA official William Buckley was imprisoned for a year and tortured before being moved to Iran last March, where he died from torture-induced heart failure.

According to intelligence sources, the two Bekaa Valley terrorists most responsible for Buckley's ordeal are Sheikh Subhi Furat, leader of Hezbollah in the Bekaa, and Hussein Resale, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in the valley.

The nerve center for most of their depredations is a dilapidated building in downtown Baalbek known as "Hosseinieh." A former schoolhouse, it serves today as the Bekaa Valley headquarters for the Revolutionary Guards.

The Iranian guard units were rushed to the Bekaa in June 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon. Their strength quickly reached 350, and kept on growing.

It was from the Hosseinieh headquarters that terrorists planned the devastating bombings of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, as well as airplane hijackings, murders and kidnappings of Americans.

The old schoolhouse isn't the only identifiable target

for U.S. retaliation in Baalbek. The Hotel Khawam is used by the Hezbollah as a military training school. The Hezbollah headquarters in the Sheikh Abdullah barracks sits on a hillside above the town; a one-time Lebanese army post, it was the target of French and Israeli reprisal raids in 1983, but has since been rebuilt.

Also housed in the Bekaa Valley is the radical Shiite group, Islamic Amal, led by Hussein Musawai, a 42-year-old former schoolteacher.

Though he denied complicity in the bombing of the Marine barracks, he praised the action. U.S. intelligence is convinced that his group had a hand in the bombing.

A large, hand-painted message scrawled on a wall in downtown Baalbek next to a poster of Ayatollah Khomeini says it all: "Death to Americans!"